

WHAT IS A PERFECT HUSBAND? WHAT IS A PERFECT WIFE?

Now we're getting some clear definitions of the requisites necessary to qualify in each classification, and there are fewer cynical sneers in the descriptions of what the P. H. and the P. W. are not. It's the business girl, the Wall Street girl, who has taken the reflections upon her adaptability to perfect domestic life most to heart, and she is resentful.



Many Girls of the Counting Room Who Possess \$25-a-Month Virtues Also Have Other Desirable Attributes—They Can Handle Egg-Beaters as Well as Typewriters.

By Marguerite Moores Marshall.

The business girl is able—and willing—to preside over the sort of home that mother used to make. She knows as much about an egg-beater as she does about a typewriter. She can manipulate a dish-mop as well as a mimeograph. The fact that she is an office worker six days in the week often does not prevent her from being a housewife nights and Sundays.

She herself has said it—all of it—and our young men readers hardly can escape admitting that it's greatly to her credit. Two of them the other day brought against her harsh charges of domestic inefficiency. That's why she couldn't possibly qualify as the perfect wife, said they; that's why they would have none of her. Wherever they once more verified the truth of the cynical old French road directions for the way to a man's heart.

That more or less justifiable re- cooking school diplomas from them, but I have received the most earnest, reiterated and detailed proofs of their domestic preparedness. Their letters,

"Complete Master" Fills Bill; Business Girl Admits She's IT



published to-day in The Evening World, should convince any man who seeks in the perfect wife what a witty woman has summed up as "the \$25-a-month virtues." Apparently he may find his ideal in the business office as readily as in the kitchen.

A woman, like every other worker, ought to know her job. If, as is the case with the majority of marriages, the wife's job means cooking, keeping house, taking care of babies, she should know how to do these things. But the knowledge of them—only this and nothing more—seems to me no guarantee of wifely perfection. The spotless home may be ruled by a tyrant. The perfect cook may give to her husband all the passionate emotional response of a clam.

It's all very well for the business woman to prove that she isn't a hopeless dupe at managing a house. But by so doing she doesn't read her title clear as a perfect wife. She is probably too intelligent to labor under such a delusion. It seems to be fixed firmly in the minds of certain young men. But the man who marries for a home, and for no other reason, is almost as sure to regret it as the woman who does the same thing.

WALL STREET GIRLS ARE LA- DIES AND THEY CAN COOK.

Dear Madam: I have been following the letters in the Evening World and have read them with some interest. I was particularly interested in L. M.'s letter. I think if L. M. will look around Wall Street he will find not only a few but many girls who can cook, clean house and make dresses. I myself am a private secretary near Wall Street and know girls who are either stenographers or bookkeepers.

Many, I say most, of these girls can do all of the things which he considers so rare in these days. Besides this, these young ladies, for such they are, are not of the powder and paint kind. I am sure that if he will use his eyes he will find he is mistaken.

The girls of this sort do not show or say what they can do; they are bus-

ness-like, independent and think that cooking, sewing and dressmaking are not for the office. I know that all these girls enjoy going out, but a great many of them do not think this is the principal thing in life. I have been taught to sew, to cook, mend, clean house, and have also been educated in music and have had a good education in other ways. Most young men do not wish a girl to say what they can do, they only wish to be frivolous and have a good time. Most girls really appreciate a young man with whom they can converse in a friendly fashion and also a young man who will talk sense with them. To me there is nothing more pleasant than to talk over the questions of the day with a man who appreciates my conversation. By a young man I do not mean one who is about twenty-two or twenty-one, but one who has become a man. In the office next to me is a young man who is always telling me what a good time he has. He never stops to think that that does not interest me in the least. He cannot discuss a single topic but dance, dinners, theatre and has had very little education. Then this young man makes about \$12 in all and is looking for a nice sensible girl to marry! He is not the only one, for although only twenty, I have met many young men like this. Let L. M. think over this, and I know if he will but look he will find many young girls who are full of fun, interesting and not thinking only of good times.

M. G.

HEAVEN HELP MISS SIMPLICITY IF SHE WEDS THE FELL GUY.

Dear Madam: I have been very much interested in some of the men's ideas of a perfect wife. The author of "Another Admirer of the Modern Home-made Girl" is the type of man who deserves what he has spent most of his time and money on—"the Doll." But of course some day he expects to settle down with a Miss Simplicity. Heaven help Miss Simplicity! "The Fell Guy" should leave Miss Simplicity to the man worthy of her—some one who has not been around so much. A perfect husband I can readily describe, for I have newly acquired one. He must be generous (that is, hand over the pay roll), unselfish, considerate of his wife's wishes and be willing to compromise on disputed questions.

Men should not think that women engaged in professions and business cannot adapt themselves to the arts of home making, for they can. Just pick out the girl who means more to you than any one else. If you are considerate enough she will love you far more than you do her and adapt herself to her surroundings, whether familiar or not. With the husband rests the responsibility of matrimonial bliss. He should forgive and suggest, rather than demand, and he will be the happiest man in the land. A. H.

THIS OFFICE GIRL HELPS OUT AT HOME.

Dear Madam: I have read different opinions on "What is a Perfect Wife?" and herewith send mine. The male sex think that if a girl works in an office all day she cannot make a good housekeeper. That is not so, because I, being employed, am obliged to help at home every evening, whether I go out or not. This is not compulsory, but is the way I was brought up. Men do not look very far for the right one, as they don't know how to treat the right girl fairly when they

do take her out; always thinking they should treat her the same as the paid and power girl. Girls do not like to be asked to do things they don't want to do. Change YOUR ATTITUDE, men, and you should be better off.

AN INTERESTED READER.
BUSINESS GIRL NOT A FRIVO- LOUS CREATURE.

Dear Madam: I have been following your articles, especially those about the "Perfect Husband and Wife," and think them very interest- ing. Having read the letters of "J. L." and "M. G." who both contend that the business girl is the most frivolous and being a business girl myself, I indignantly deny the same. It is only too true that there are girls in every station in life, from the business girl and factory worker to the girl who stays at home, who can be described as the girls who are ready to accept any man's invitation to lunch, and who will try to make a showy appearance when a man enters the office or factory. But I, as well as many other girls, I am sure, resent the statements of "J. L." and "M. G." as not being true of most business girls.

The fact that the girl in his office powdered her face and brushed her hair when a man entered does not justify "J. L." in saying that "the girls" have been there and is thoroughly disgusted with the girls that work in offices.

L. W. A BUSINESS GIRL.
MEN HAVE ONE CREED FOR GIRLS, "BE A GOOD SPORT."

Dear Madam: I have followed with interest your articles in The Evening World. I have noted what "J. L." says regarding Wall Street girls, and although I quite agree with him, I do not think it just to judge all of them as he does. It is not a pity that the young man of to-day does not practice what he preaches? For he says one thing and usually means another. These young men that condemn us are the first to go out with these painted dolls. Do not think I am saying this to defend myself, for I do not paint powder and can sew and do every-

thing essential for a girl to know, although I go to business and work in the Wall Street district. It is easy to say that men do not marry the gay girl. Well, perhaps they really do marry the simple girl, but in the mean time the simple girl remains at home until some fellow who has tired of the gay life wishes to settle down. It is the man who really makes the girls out as they do, for the man has only one creed, and that is, if the girl is not a good sport she remains at home the next time.

When a young man takes a girl out he expects to be allowed to kiss her and expects kisses in return. If the girl has enough honor to refuse his request she can say "goodbye" when he has taken her home, for she surely will not be asked to join him again, no matter how pleasant and entertaining she may be. I myself have more than once had this experience and therefore know what I am talking about, but think that I really feel that the girls are in the end. A good wife is one who is willing to help her husband and considers marriage a partnership wherein one partner has to stand the joys and sorrows of the other; one who is a good cook, housekeeper and mother.

"D. H." WOULD BE A PERFECT WIFE FOR "M. T."

Dear Madam: I have been a reader of The Evening World for a long time and would like to say in reference to the perfect wife that the article "D. H." has written is the most sensible one I ever read. I agree with her, and if a fellow could meet a woman like her he would have a perfect wife. I have been looking for fifteen years and I can say they are hard to find in New York. The wife should be a companion to her husband, be neat, understand him and try to please him; his pleasures should be hers. She need not be good looking or be doted up; just a plain, good, respectable, loving woman. I don't think men care about these things and dress well for wives. When they want a wife they generally pick something different. M. T.

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